

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 37

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 EXTOLLING THE LIFE OF MARALYN BUDKE AND EXPRESSING THE SORROW
12 OF THE LEGISLATURE ON HER DEATH.

13
14 WHEREAS, Maralyn Budke was born on February 6, 1936 and
15 passed away on January 9, 2010 with her beloved dog, Adobe, at
16 her side; and

17 WHEREAS, this stark statement belies the extraordinary
18 life of an extraordinary woman who worked behind the scenes of
19 New Mexico history to improve the lives of all New Mexicans;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Maralyn grew up in Amarillo, Texas, the daughter
22 of Herbert and Sue Budke and received her bachelor's and
23 master's degrees, with honors, in political science and
24 government from the university of New Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1958, she served as a student intern for the

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1 office of the legislative fiscal analyst in the legislative
2 council service and, as such, assisted the legendary Inez Gill
3 in staffing the one-year-old legislative finance committee,
4 after which she was hired as assistant fiscal analyst in 1959
5 and served in that post until a heart attack temporarily felled
6 Ms. Gill and caused the restructuring of the committee staffing
7 in 1965; and

8 WHEREAS, Maralyn was named the executive secretary of the
9 legislative finance committee, because the committee could not
10 bring itself to give a woman the title of director, and served
11 in that capacity until recruited by Governor David Cargo to
12 work on his administrative staff; and

13 WHEREAS, Maralyn Budke rejoined the legislative finance
14 committee staff, this time as director, on November 18, 1968
15 and served until her retirement in 1982; and

16 WHEREAS, her tenure began just as the legislative finance
17 committee started to prepare independent legislative budget
18 recommendations and broadened its scope in state finance
19 oversight, and many of the committee's processes that are still
20 in place, including fiscal impact reports, were developed by
21 Maralyn; and

22 WHEREAS, Maralyn was a brilliant strategist, whose instant
23 recall of the smallest detail of the state budget made her
24 invaluable to the several chairmen she so ably served,
25 including legislative giants Representative John Mershon and

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1 Senator Aubrey Dunn; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Mershon said of her, "She says
3 what needs to be said. She can look people in the eye and tell
4 them the truth – and make them like it."; and

5 WHEREAS, Maralyn is considered to have been one of the
6 most important and influential women ever to serve in New
7 Mexico government, and she was a consummate professional who
8 always displayed the highest principles and ethical standards;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the committee staff who Maralyn taught, tutored
11 and mentored over the years reads like a "Who's Who" of state
12 government in the late twentieth and early twenty-first
13 centuries; and

14 WHEREAS, Maralyn returned to state government as Governor
15 Garrey Carruthers' chief of staff for the princely sum of one
16 dollar (\$1.00) per year, reputedly raised to three dollars
17 (\$3.00) at the end when she served as both chief of staff and
18 secretary of health; and

19 WHEREAS, Governor Carruthers has said of Maralyn Budke,
20 "Of all the public servants I've known, she has to be the
21 finest."; and

22 WHEREAS, Maralyn is credited with establishing the state's
23 first motor pool, consolidating control of the state's
24 hospitals, improving the corrections department, playing a
25 major role in reforming the old bureau of revenue and pushing

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1 for the creation of the university of New Mexico school of
2 medicine and the university hospital, among other things; and
3 her last service for the state was serving as the chair of the
4 higher education funding formula task force and serving on the
5 governor's ethics reform task force; and

6 WHEREAS, in addition to her public service, Maralyn was
7 well-known for her philanthropic work, supporting the
8 university of New Mexico's school of medicine and its hospitals
9 and serving on the boards of Santa Maria el Mirador, the
10 university of New Mexico foundation, Sangre de Cristo animal
11 protection, incorporated, and the New Mexico international
12 women's forum; and

13 WHEREAS, after her second retirement from state
14 government, Maralyn pursued her interest in the preservation of
15 endangered species and embarked upon five African safaris and a
16 trip to Antarctica; and

17 WHEREAS, in recognition of her significant contributions
18 to public and charitable service, Maralyn Budke was named as a
19 "Santa Fe Living Treasure" in 2006; and

20 WHEREAS, in her incalculable influence as director of the
21 legislative finance committee, the legacy of her two stints as
22 gubernatorial chief of staff and her generous philanthropic
23 work, Maralyn Budke's spirit will live on in New Mexico, and
24 past, current and future generations of New Mexicans owe her a
25 debt of gratitude;

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